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Food Stamp Facts..

Allotments and Purchase Requirements



The Food Stamp Program enables low-income households to buy more food of greater variety to improve their diets. Participants pay a small sum of money—the amount based on family size and net monthly income—and receive a larger value of food stamps, which can be spent like money in participating food stores.

Major changes were made in the Food Stamp Program by the 1971 amendments (Public Law 91-671) to the Food Stamp Act of 1964.

To qualify for food stamp benefits, households must meet certain nationwide eligibility standards such as income and work registration. With one exception, food stamp households must be able to prepare meals. When qualified, participants will receive an allotment of coupons related to the number of people in the household, and pay an amount (purchase requirement) for this allotment according to the net total income of the household according to the tables given in this fact sheet. Following are some frequently asked questions and answers about the coupon allotments and the purchase requirements under the new regulations.

1. WHAT IS THE PURCHASE REQUIREMENT?

The amount a household pays for its food stamps is called the purchase requirement. The amount increases as the household income increases, but in no case will the purchase requirement be more than 30 percent of the household's net income or take-home pay.

2. HOW IS THE ALLOTMENT DETERMINED?

The total amount of coupons an eligible household will receive will depend upon the size of the household.

3. WHAT ARE BONUS FOOD STAMPS?

"Bonus" or "free" coupons are the difference between the purchase requirement and the total coupon allotment. For example, if a household paid \$10 for \$66 worth of coupons, the bonus would be \$56 worth of coupons: See table on page 3.

4. DOES A HOUSEHOLD HAVE TO BUY ALL THE STAMPS AT ONE TIME?

A household can buy stamps twice a month or, in some States, more often. If a household receives a monthly welfare payment, the cost of the total coupon allotment can be deducted from the check, in some States.

5. CAN A HOUSEHOLD BUY LESS THAN THE TOTAL ALLOTMENT?

A household is allowed to purchase three-quarters, one-half, or one-quarter of the total allotment unless the household has chosen to have the purchase requirement deducted from the welfare payment. In that case, the household must buy the total allotment.

6. CAN A HOUSEHOLD GO BACK AND BUY THE REST OF THE ALLOTMENT LATER?

Once the household buys less than the total allotment in any one month, it *will not* be able to pick up the balance at a later date. However, the full allotment may be purchased the following month.

Any food stamp participant may request a fair hearing if he feels a decision regarding his participation has been unfair. Each household should be informed of its right to a fair hearing at the time of application. The standards for participation in the Food Stamp Program are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, religious creed, national origin, or political beliefs.

FOR FULL AND COMPLETE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FOOD STAMP CERTIFICATION OR WELFARE OFFICE

The Food Stamp Facts series include:

- **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**
- **PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS**
- **DISASTER SITUATIONS**
- **HOUSEHOLD INCOME DEDUCTIONS**
- **WORK REGISTRATION**
- **MEALS-ON-WHEELS**
- **FAIR HEARINGS**
- **RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITY**

THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM
MONTHLY COUPON ALLOTMENTS AND PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS
48 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Number in Household:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Monthly allotment:	\$38	\$66	\$94	\$116	\$138	\$160	\$180	\$200
Monthly Net Income	Monthly Purchase Requirement:							
\$ 0 - \$ 19.99	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
20 - 29.99	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 - 39.99	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
40 - 49.99	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	8
50 - 59.99	8	10	10	10	11	11	12	12
60 - 69.99	10	12	13	13	14	14	15	16
70 - 79.99	12	15	16	16	17	17	18	19
80 - 89.99	14	18	19	19	20	21	21	22
90 - 99.99	16	21	21	22	23	24	25	26
100 - 109.99	18	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
110 - 119.99	21	26	27	28	29	31	32	33
120 - 129.99	23	29	30	31	33	34	35	36
130 - 139.99	25	32	33	34	36	37	38	39
140 - 149.99	27	35	36	37	39	40	41	42
150 - 169.99	27	37	40	41	42	43	44	45
170 - 189.99	28	43	46	47	48	49	50	51
190 - 209.99	45	52	53	54	55	56	57	
210 - 229.99	45	58	59	60	61	62	63	
230 - 249.99	46	64	65	66	67	68	69	
250 - 269.99		70	71	72	73	74	75	
270 - 289.99		75	77	78	79	80	81	
290 - 309.99		75	83	84	85	86	87	
310 - 329.99		76	89	90	91	92	93	
330 - 359.99			89	96	97	98	99	
360 - 389.99			92	103	106	107	108	
390 - 419.99				107	115	116	117	
420 - 449.99				109	119	125	126	
450 - 479.99				110	123	133	135	
480 - 509.99					127	137	141	
510 - 539.99					128	141	145	
540 - 569.99						143	149	
570 - 599.99						143	153	
600 - 629.99						144	157	
630 - 659.99							159	
660 - 689.99							160	

For issuance to households of more than eight persons use the following formula:

VALUE OF THE TOTAL ALLOTMENT: For each person in excess of eight, add \$16 to the monthly coupon allotment for an eight-person household.

PURCHASE REQUIREMENT: 1. Use the purchase requirement shown for the eight-person household for households with incomes of \$599.99 or less per month.

2. For households with monthly incomes of \$600 or more, use the following formula: For each \$30 worth of monthly income (or portion thereof) over \$599.99, add \$4 to the monthly purchase requirement shown for an eight-person household with an income of \$599.99

3. Monthly purchase requirements for households of more than eight persons are: Nine persons \$172, 10 persons \$184, and add \$12 for each person over 10.

